



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 31564 Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-1564
<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.com>
raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

February 2nd, 2006

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 2nd @7:30pm

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the [North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) located at [4700 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh](#). Visitors are welcome! Snacks and light refreshments are provided. A raffle of fish and fish related items follow the meeting. Due to Security Issues, NCSU has required that the doors going into the downstairs lobby remain locked. Please be on time, as we will have a designated person standing by the door to let you in. If you are late, you may try knocking or call Brandon Berry s cell phone at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011.

Meeting Agenda

Dan Phillips and Ed Walker of the *NC Koi and Watergardening Society*. The topic: "*Planning and Understanding Fish Ponds and Tub Gardening*".

Monthly Feature

THE ALBAMMY-WHAMMY by Charlie Grimes

Somehow I 'signed on' for a fish December 2005 collecting trip to Alabama with Jim Graham and Phil Kukulski... As with most of my adventures and misadventures, the outing sounded like a great idea while in the planning stage --- it was still warm a couple of months ago!!!! I even have a historical perspective that should have given me a clue that December weather is pretty iffy, at best. Last year, 2004, Jim Graham and Klaus Schoening inveigled me into a South Carolina trip that provided a mixed bag of weather --- a couple of T-shirts and shorts days followed by a couple of days when I couldn't pile on enough warm clothes. And, of course, the locals commented that the weather was unusually cool. I did an internet search and determined that the odds of pleasant weather for our trip, Tuesday, Dec. 8 through Sunday, Dec. 11, were pretty good. The historical temperature averaged highs in the 60's and lows in the mid 30's --- pretty nice. The drive down on Tuesday, which included lunch at Popeye's, was very pleasant --- sunny and warm. We got to our base, a motel in Athens, Alabama, (the north central part of Alabama), in the early part of the afternoon. As Phil was all 'geeked up' to go collecting, we went collecting for the last two hours of daylight of the day. More correctly, Phil and Jim went collecting while I took pictures and shouted advice from the bridge. In reality, I am not nearly so avid a fish collector as I pretend. Additionally, I am a pretty avid photographer. Here lately, most of my fish collecting outings are at least 50% photography and I have noticed that the interest in photography increases as the outside temperature drops. When I looked over the

north side of the bridge crossing the first stream we stopped at on Dec 8, 2005, and saw ice on a log in the water, I knew this was going to be a camera dominated afternoon. Early Wednesday morning, 23 degrees, found us heading east to a couple of collecting sites visited during the 2003 NANFA Convention. While I was busily taking pictures of frost coated leaves & twigs, still below freezing, Jim & Phil were in the water catching fish. The day turned off sunny and pleasant with the temperature getting close to 50 degrees. I stayed both warm and dry, took a lot of pictures and the dedicated fish collectors had good success, especially for darters. They caught some colorful Redline Darters along with a mixed bag of other darters and shiners. Thursday, the 'patented Grimes weather' caught up with us and a cooler rain front was marching through the entire state. We drove south about 150 miles to look for shiners, especially Rainbow Shiners. Our first stop did actually cough up some Rainbow shiners and considerable entertainment. Even though it was rainy, the temperature was in the mid 40's --- Jim and Phil shamed me into leaving my camera in the van and getting into the water to help with the fish collecting. When we caught a couple Rainbow Shiners, I decided this collecting thing was a lot of fun and was getting into the spirit of things --- actually contributing, albeit in a small way. With about 10 Rainbow Shiners in the collecting bucket, the old saying, "THE THINGS YOU SEE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A CAMERA HANDY" again proved itself to be very true. Jim took a misstep and fell into the creek! When the splashing was all over, there he was with only his toes and nose protruding above water. -----what a photo opportunity!!!! The van, with my two cameras, was only a couple of hundred yards distant. The big question --- was it reasonable to ask Jim to stay immersed in 40 degree water for the three or four minutes it would take me to scoot to the van and back with my camera????? Probably not. After Jim was on the stream bank and draining, I did ask, strictly in the interest of photographic history, if he would be willing to re-enter the stream and recreate the 'nose and toes' scene. Jim, usually so accommodating, wouldn't even discuss my proposal. After a side trip to Wal-Mart where Jim bought underwear, socks, shirt, and, of course, bib overalls, we sorta resumed our collecting. The other spots we tried that day were pretty close to inaccessible to Jim and me. Phil, younger and a lot more agile, did manage to collect some spiffy darters and some little minnows that looked to be a Pteronotropis species. If they are, no matter which species, they should grow up to be really cool fish. It was a long drive back to the motel that evening but, for me at any rate, it was considerably lighted by the memory of Jim's unplanned dip in the creek. Friday morning went beyond chilly and was downright frigid. We had sort of decided to hunt for Scarlet Shiners, but with the nasty cold, we opted to try a different location for Rainbow Shiners. This location is about 75 miles and allowed the sun drenched landscape to warm to 36 degrees --- the high for the day. It was plenty warm enough for Jim and Phil to hit the water and for me to take a lot of pictures. I needed the habitat pictures for a friend's article on Rainbow Shiners --- that is my story & I am sticking to it! In short order, Jim & Phil caught enough Rainbow Shiners for our limited needs and we headed back towards what we hoped was a Scarlet Shiner collecting location. We did take a short detour to photograph an abandoned cotton mill --- very interesting. I tried to imagine all the activity at the mill when it was in its 'glory', with farmers bringing in huge wagon loads of cotton to be 'ginned' and bales of processed cotton being loaded on trucks. I have a pretty good imagination and I was able to conjure up quite a sight. A very fun spot to visit. By the time we got to what we hoped was a collecting location for Scarlet Shiners, the temperature had dropped to 33 degrees. I decided to stay in the van and start writing this article while Jim and Phil, wearing waders, winter jackets, stocking caps, and rubber gloves, hit the water. Those two guys labored mightily and soon caught a number of shiny silver minnows that looked to be different than what we had caught on earlier outings. I should have been embarrassed by my lack of collecting spirit --- but every time I ventured out of the van to shout a few words of encouragement to the guys, I got a blast of that 33 degree weather and decided there was only enough adventure in that creek for two people and I didn't think it would be fair for me to dilute the fun Jim and Phil were having. --- That is my story and I am sticking to it! The weather forecast for Saturday was for a low in the morning of 18 degrees with warming to 45 degrees in the afternoon. I hinted that heading for home a day early might be a good idea. Phil --- apparently he never gets cold --- was already planning and plotting collecting sites in the NW corner of Alabama for Saturday and couldn't be deterred by common sense arguments. I'll give Phil credit --- he collected from early morning till dark Saturday --- Jim stayed right there in the water with Phil for almost all of it except the last hour. There was ice across parts of some of the streams, absurd! They did catch four new kinds of darters and plenty of minnows. They even swore they were having a good time --- Absurd! Their brains must have been frostbitten! The upside of Jim & Phil sloshing around in those iceberg laden waters was that I got to photograph some really nifty darters --- nine species that we don't get to see here in Indiana. I do intend to return to Alabama to do some more collecting --- I have a fishing license that is valid till December 2006 --- I'll go back when the temperatures are a bit more comfortable --- 'cause there are lots of spiffy fish there just waiting to be caught.

Trading Post

Patricia has: 2 Echinodorus "red flame" aka the red flame Ozelot sword. Both swords have at least 6 to 6 leaves, and healthy, extensive root growth. This cultivar will get as large as its parent, the Ozelot sword, but it grows much more

slowly, is redder, and more heavily speckled. \$7 each. Also, 5 Echinodorus "indian red". This sword comes in a nice, dark red that fades to reddish-green on older leaves. \$7 each. Contact her at flummery at verizon.net

Lisa Warren has a 180 and 100 gallon tank for sale, both with wooden stands. E-mail her at jecawarren at yahoo.com and make an offer.

Frank Montillo has: Praecox Australian Rainbows male and females, Yellow Labiochromis African cichlids male and females, red zebras and daffodils. Contact him at (919) 556-9004 or e-mail at fmontillo at aol.com

Amy Witt has "three approx. 1.5 year old Synodontis Eupterus in search of a new home. Very healthy and well cared for, they really need more room than I am able to give at this time". She can be reached at amywitt at yahoo.com

Monthly Web Links

Do you love plecos? Do you find that the information on [planet catfish](#), while useful, isn't specific enough for you? Try [Pleco Fanatics](#), The Ultimate Loricariidae & Plecostomus Community.

Want some really magnificent salt water fish wallpapers? Or maybe some pics of crabs, nudibranchs or tropical beaches? Check out [The Gallery of Photography by Jim Christensen](#). I have been perusing this site when things are slow at work and downloading the wallpapers. I get many compliments on the pics. Enjoy!

Read about the world's smallest fish and vertebrate, [Paedocypris progenetica](#), a small fish from the peat swamps of Indonesia (where pH can be as low as 3) that reaches a maximum size of 0.31 inches. Yep, that's right, less than 1/3 of an inch!

[Potomac Valley Aquarium Society](#) in the Washington D.C. area

[Atlanta Area Aquarium Association](#) in Atlanta, Georgia

Club Sponsors

(The following businesses give RAS members a discount on purchases)

You may be asked to show your RAS membership card

[Aqua Escape](#) 200 West Peace Street, Suite 130, Raleigh (10%) **919.755.0400**

[Aquatica](#) 5533 NC Hwy 42-West, A-16, Garner (10%) **919.661.7790**

[Carolina Pet Supply](#) 322 McCormick Street, Garner (10%) **919.773.0014**

[Creative Pet](#) 1350 E Broad St., Fuquay-Varina (10%) **919.577.9977**

[Critter Country Inc](#) 14 Technology Drive, Garner (10%) **919.772.3761**

[Down Under, Salt Water Fish & Corals](#) Highway 70 (in between Agri Supply and White Oak Shopping Center) in Garner. 20% on livestock, 15% on dry goods) **919.662.8820**

[Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center](#) 303 S. Horner Boulevard Sanford, NC 27330 (10% on everything except tanks)

919.718-0850

[Fish Pros](#) 5412 Etta Burke Court, Raleigh (10%) **919.233.1122**

[Fish World](#) 3501-151 Capital Blvd., Raleigh (10%) **919.872.1228**

[Infinity Pets](#) 100 W. Main St. Suite C. Youngsville, NC (10%) **570.3039** e-mail infinitypets@earthlink.net

[Pet Mania](#) 7901 Falls of Neuse Rd #125, Raleigh (10%) **919.676.3225**

[Pet Paradise](#) 9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.848.8881**

[Pawz Pet Supply](#) 7317 Six Forks Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.845.9332**

[The Pet Pad](#) 1347 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, (10%) **919.481.6614**

[Triangle Tropical Fish](#) 3600 N. Duke St. #36, Durham (10% excluding aquariums and stands) **919.479.0088**

Please contact Patricia Ceger at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com if you are an active member of the Raleigh Aquarium Society and do not have an up to date membership card. Membership cards can be picked up at any meeting.

Raleigh Aquarium Society

Application for Membership

Membership privileges include:

-Ability to post items in trading post section of monthly newsletter

-A discount card good at participating local pet stores

-All club discounts on club functions

-Education from the most knowledgeable aquarium experts in NC

-Yearly Membership - \$15.00 (includes spouse and children)

(Membership dues run from March 1st each year. New members joining any other time will be pro-rated at \$3 + \$1 for each month remaining in the year.)

Name(s): _____

Date to begin membership: ____/____/____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (2) (____) _____

Email Address: _____

New Membership _____

Renewal Membership _____

Mail to:

Raleigh Aquarium Society
PO Box 31564
Raleigh, NC 27612-1564

